

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement formal Figures 7 and 8 are submitted concurrently herewith under a separate cover letter.

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action of March 21, 2006 is respectfully requested.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings due to various informalities. In particular, the Examiner asserted that reference number 7 was used to indicate both a spring in Figure 2e and a rocker in Figure 8. However, reference number 7 shown in original Figure 8 is an obvious editorial mistake, and will be replaced with reference number 17 to provide consistency with the other drawings. Upon reviewing the application, it was also noticed that reference number 30 incorrectly appears in Figure 7 to indicate the opening in the pull-out rail 2, and reference number 30 will be changed to reference number 50 to provide consistency with the other drawings and the specification.

In order to effect the changes discussed above, new formal Figures 7 and 8 have now been prepared and submitted herewith, and the only changes incorporated in these drawings are the changes to the reference numbers discussed above. Thus, no new matter has been added, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter new formal Figures 7 and 8. Furthermore, in view of the submission of new formal Figure 8, it is submitted that the Examiner's objections to the drawings have been overcome.

The Examiner also objected to the specification due to various informalities. In particular, the Examiner noted that the rocker is identified on page 8 of the original specification with both reference numbers 7 and 17. In view of this objection, and in order to make various additional editorial corrections, the entire specification and abstract have now been reviewed and revised. In particular, each occurrence of reference number 7 identifying the rocker in the specification has been changed to reference number 17 so as to provide consistency throughout the specification. As the revisions are quite extensive, the amendments to the specification and abstract have been incorporated into the attached substitute specification and abstract. For the Examiner's benefit, a marked-up copy of the specification indicating the changes made thereto is also enclosed. No new matter has been added by the revisions. Entry of the substitute

specification is thus respectfully requested. Furthermore, in view of the amendments to the specification discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's objection to the specification has been overcome.

The Examiner rejected elected claims 1 and 12-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. However, the original claims have now been cancelled and replaced with new claims 22-44. In this regard, new claims 22, 33-41, 43 and 44 read on the elected species. Furthermore, the new claims have been drafted in order to address all of the Examiner's formal rejections, and so as to fully comply with all of the requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

With respect to the Examiner's formal rejections under § 112, the Examiner is requested to note that the new claims have been drafted so as to clearly indicate that the Applicants are not claiming the carcass or the drawer as positively-recited elements of the claim. Furthermore, the Examiner is requested to note that the phrase "differential manner" means that one element (e.g., the running carriage) moves at a different speed than other elements (e.g., a support rail and a pull-out rail) so as to move relative to those other elements. It is submitted that the meaning of this phrase is illustrated in Figures 2a-6f, and 13a-17e, and would be well known to one of ordinary skill in the art. In view of the submission of the new claims and the above remarks, it is submitted that the Examiner's formal rejections under § 112 are not applicable to the new claims.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 12-17 as being anticipated by the Rapp reference (US 4,659,237); and has rejected claims 1, 12-18, and 20 as being anticipated by the Rock reference (US 4,089,567). However, as indicated above, the original claims have now been cancelled and replaced with new claims 22-44, including new independent claims 22 and 44. For the reasons discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that the new claims are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

A description of the arrangement and advantages of the present invention will now be provided with reference to various portions of the present application. However, reference to any particular embodiments of the present application is provided only for the Examiner's benefit, and is not intended to otherwise limit the scope of the claims.

The present invention is directed to a pull-out guide assembly in which the position of a running carriage with respect to a support rail and pull-out rail can be corrected so that the running carriage can properly move in a differential manner with respect to the support rail and the pull-out rail. In particular, as recited in new independent claim 22, the pull-out guide assembly comprises a support rail 1, a pull-out rail 2, and a running carriage 3 mounted between the support rail 1 and the pull-out rail 2. As illustrated in Figures 15a-15e and explained on page 8, lines 6-12 of the original specification, a locking device (including opening 50, tab 19, and rocker 17) is operable to lock the running carriage 3 to the support rail 1 or the pull-out rail 2 at a first predetermined point located between a front end position and a rear end position (see Figure 15b which illustrates the running carriage 3 being locked to the pull-out rail 2 at the first predetermined point). The locking device is further operable to unlock the running carriage 3 from the support rail 1 or the pull-out rail 2 at a second predetermined point located between the front end position and the rear end position due to relative movement between the support rail 1 and the pull-out rail 2 (see Figures 15c and 15d which illustrate the running carriage 3 being unlocked from the pull-out rail 2 due to relative movement between the support rail 1 and the pull-out rail 2).

Furthermore, the support rail 1, the pull-out rail 2, and the running carriage 3 are arranged and interconnected so that, if the running carriage is locked to the support rail 1 or the pull-out rail 2 while moving toward the front end position or the rear end position (i.e., while moving from left-to-right in Figures 15a-15e), the running carriage 3 is operable to *continue moving toward the front end position or the rear end position (i.e., moving from left-to-right in Figs 15a-15e)* in the differential manner *after being unlocked* by the locking device at the second predetermined point (see, in particular, the movement indicated from Fig 15d to Fig. 15e).

Both the Rapp reference and the Rock reference disclose drawer guides in which a mobile carriage can be latched to a drawer rail. For example, the Rapp reference teaches a mobile carriage 4 including a latch 15 having a locking projection 16 to be received in a recess 17 in a pull-out rail 2 so that the carriage 4 can be latched to the pull-out rail 2 and pulled off of the support rail 3 together. Similarly, the Rock reference teaches a mobile carriage 6 having a latch

22 for holding the mobile unit 6 on a support rail 1 to prevent the mobile unit 6 from falling out of the piece of furniture. However, in both of these references, each carriage can *only* be unlocked from the rail by moving the carriage in the opposite direction (e.g., by pushing the drawer back into the piece of furniture). (See column 4, lines 5-8 of the Rapp reference; and column 4, lines 32-44 of the Rock reference). In other words, the carriages can only be released by being pushed or moved in a direction *opposite* to the direction in which they were moving when they became locked to the rail (e.g., in the closing direction opposite to the opening direction in which they were moving when they became locked), and the carriage *cannot* continue moving in the opening direction after they become unlocked. Thus, it is submitted that neither the Rapp reference nor the Rock reference teach or suggest a support rail, a pull-out rail, and a running carriage arranged and interconnected so that a running carriage is operable to *continue moving* toward the front end position or the rear end position (i.e., in the original direction of travel) in a differential manner *after being unlocked* by the locking device at the second predetermined point.

Because the prior art of record does not teach or suggest an arrangement of a support rail, a pull-out rail, and a running carriage as recited in new independent claim 22, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify or combine the references to obtain the invention recited in claim 22. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claim 22 and the claims that depend therefrom are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

The Examiner is requested to note that new independent claim 44 is directed to a pull-out guide assembly for a drawer, including running carriages mounted between support rails and pull-out rails, and new independent claim 24 includes the same features regarding the relationship between a support rail, a pull-out rail, and a running carriage as recited in new independent claim 22. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claim 44 is also in condition for allowance for the same reasons as claim 22.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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